

MANITOWOC COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:48 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI. The meeting was also accessible electronically by Zoom.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Baumann, Burke, Cavanaugh, Nasep, Shimulunas

Board Members Attending by Zoom: Ruggirello, Williams

Board Members Excused: Henrickson

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Bruns, J. Foster, L. Fure, Joas, Randolph, Kubec, Dodge, Ziegelbauer

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nancy Slattery spoke supporting the education topic (Parent Support Worker Program) and also the request to authorize a CCS Program Supervisor position. The position would be almost fully funded by Medicaid so it would not be an expense for the county. She would also encourage advertising with a higher salary so we don't get them all trained and then they leave.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY SHIMULUNAS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC: Parent Support Worker Program – Jena Foster and Donna Bruns

Jena Foster is the supervisor of the parent support workers. Jena introduced Donna Bruns, a Parent Support Worker. Jena explained the two main goals of parent support workers are supervised visits and parent education. When children are placed out-of-home, within 5 days of the placement we are mandated to offer visitation. We try to find safe relatives or others that could help with supervision, but when there is no one available the parent support workers supervise the visits and arrange transportation. The State mandates at least 1 visit a week for about two hours. We also encourage virtual contact/face-time, etc. The social workers do safety staffings with the family to see what kind of options are available for them. The parent support workers meet with parents to work on parent education so children can be returned home and continue to visit the home once kids are back home, to see how everyone is adjusting and help parents with any issues.

All of our Parent Support Workers attend the Nurturing Parenting Program which is a 3 day long training program. It is family based training. They initially have parents complete a parenting assessment and they answer 40 questions on their expectations of children. They also complete the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) assessment. Workers use both assessments to set up a curriculum for the parent. They do the assessment when they start working with a parent aide, when they are ½ way done and also when training is complete, to see if they are improving. Parents only have to work on areas they need help with. Many parents are court-ordered to attend parenting education. There were many changes to the program this year because of Covid, (extra cleaning, social distancing, enforcing mask wearing, etc.) we started virtual visits but by May started up face-to-face visits.

We are renting two large rooms at Lakeshore CAP and also using the respite house for visits. They are much bigger areas so social distancing is easier. There is also a fenced in outside area. In January we served 51 families and had 117 supervised visits with 264 hours of visit time.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADD A CCS PROGRAM SUPERVISOR – Patricia Dodge:

The CCS Program has grown significantly and there are so many different rules to follow it is becoming overwhelming for one person to supervise that program and the other clinical areas. We would like to request authorization to add a CCS Program Supervisor. There would be 11 employees that would directly report to this position. This position is not included in the budget but administrative costs should be covered by Medicaid.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAVANAUGH, SECONDED BY BURKE TO SUBMIT A RESOLUTION TO ADD THE REQUEST TO THE ROSTER OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE AND COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH JANUARY, 2021 – Patricia Dodge:

Lori Fure updated the board on the recent CCS audit by the State Division of Quality Assurance. The reviewers are extremely particular on the many rules of the program. Staff have been doing a huge amount of work this year to get all the records converted to the Avatar Program. The audit went really well, and they said it looked better than two years ago when they were here last. The county bills a lot to MA for this program. There are \$2.3 million in the 2021 budget and if we don't do it just right we would get an OIG Audit by the Office of Internal Government.

The CCS program keeps people from having to be institutionalized. It is a psychosocial rehabilitation program serving children through adults. In 2014 we had 2 case managers and 4 providers. Currently we have 11 case managers and 20 contracted providers with 100 employees. The program also connects with drug court participants and people with mental health issues.

The Children's Division said without the CCS program they would have to place more children. There are many children with mental health disorders and there are 30 kids currently on the wait list.

Economic Support said as of February on-line energy assistance applications are going to On-line Services to determine if they may be eligible for any of the emergency rental assistance. Economic Support is still handling the mail-in applications, crisis, furnace replacement and community out-reach. There will be no April 15th deadline this year for energy assistance because of Covid.

Patricia is estimating an annual surplus for the 2020 budget. Part of that is due to an increase in the YFS allocation, as well as a higher expected amount in the WIMCR Medicaid gap program.

We also have a credit of \$6,300 from Winnebago for January.

QUESTIONS AND INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Discussion regarding the issue with the way the State is figuring rates for care providers in the Family Care Program. Lakeland Care, Inc. is losing about 10 million dollars for 2021 and are lowering rates to providers 6 – 7%. Rates will be based on the needs of occupant, not just per person rate, so some will get an increase.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS – Patricia Dodge:

Secretary Emilie Amundson will attend the Regional Department Directors Group meeting tomorrow. We will be discussing collaborating with other counties to develop a regional group home or residential home to keep kids with higher needs in the community, rather than having to send them outside of the region or state.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we will send a Proclamation to the County Board. May is Foster Care Month.

Staffing: We have hired 1 CCS Facilitator and 1 Clinical Case Manager which will both be starting in April. The Medical Coding Specialist and Parent Support Worker positions have also been filled. We are still looking for 1 CCS Facilitator, 2 AODA Counselors and an LTE for the CFS Unit.

Date of next meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. The meeting will be held in the 8th Street building at 801 Jay Street. Access will also be available remotely by Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.